as 40 Agricultural Technology Information Centres have been initiated at SAUs and ICAR Institutes to provide a single window delivery system for technology products, services and information to the farmers and other end users. Besides existing 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), the ICAR has sanctioned strengthening 53 Zonal Agricultural Research stations to take up additional functions of KVKs.

Specialists view on Nuclear Tests

1283. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Nuclear Weapon specialists are of the view that more nuclear tests would be necessary to develop the credibility of our nuclear deterrent; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for Government's over enthusiasm to sign the CTBT when the main Nuclear Power themselves are not ready for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government have declared a voluntary moratorium on further nuclear explosive tests. The five tests conducted in May 1998 have provided an adequate scientific data base for designing the types of weapons needed for a credible minimum nuclear deterrent.

(b) Government's position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. While Government closely monitors all international developments on the CTBT, Government's position on the treaty continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interests and its desire to develop a national consensus on this issue.

Work on Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

1284. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought permission to begin work on the third and fourth units of the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant;